

NAVY DEPARTMENT

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LESTER B. GRANGER,
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE
RECEIVES PRESIDENT'S MEDAL FOR MERIT

Lester B. Granger, Executive Secretary of the National Urban League, today was presented the President's Medal for Merit for exceptionally meritorious service as Special Adviser to the Secretary of the Navy on interracial relations in the Naval service. The presentation was made by Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal.

The text of the citation reads:

"Lester Granger, for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services to the United States. Mr. Granger, as Special Adviser to the Secretary of the Navy on interracial relations, gave sound and able counsel to the Secretary of the Navy on the utilization of Negro personnel in the Navy. By his keen observations, his fairness of judgment and his straightforward recommendations he contributed more than any other one person to the effective utilization of Negro personnel in the Service. After an inspection of continental and overseas naval activities, during which his tactful and forthright advice won the respect of men and officers alike, he personally evaluated the position of the Negro in the Navy, suggesting general policies as well as solutions for specific cases. His report and recommendations to the Secretary have formed the basis for the Navy's peacetime policy for the utilization of Negro personnel which gives every promise of providing a solution to the problem which will be satisfactory to all concerned. Mr. Granger's services were rendered with distinction reflecting credit to the Navy and to the Government of the United States, were outstanding, and contributed materially to the successful prosecution of the war."

Mr. Granger travelled more than 50,000 miles while visiting 67 Naval establishments in the United States and the Pacific to carry out his assignment of obtaining a correct evaluation of the progress of the Navy's racial policy. During his survey, he personally talked to more than 10,000 Negro enlisted men, their commanding officers and fleet commanders. His recommendations formed the basis for the Navy's peacetime policy for utilization of Negro personnel.

Mr. Granger's address is 1133 Broadway, New York, New York.

(Photographs available in Pictorial Library, Office of Public Information.)
